Fluorescence Bronchoscopy

LIFE bronchoscopy is currently FDA approved for the detection of lung cancer when used with standard bronchoscopy.

We hope that it may be used as a screening tool to detect early lung cancer before the cancer spreads. If lung cancer is detected early, patients have more treatment options. These options may result in improved survival.

Courtesy of UNC Medical Illustration

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UNC
LINEBERGER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

MULTIDISCIPLINARY THORACIC ONCOLOGY PROGRAM

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National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

LIFE Bronchoscopy - Lung Imaging Fluorescence Endoscope

Lung cancer is the most lethal cancer in the world in both men and women. Over 160,000 people die yearly in the United States. Unlike colon cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, and prostate cancer, there is currently no reliable test to detect early lung cancer. People are most often diagnosed with lung cancer when it has already spread and the chance for a cure is less likely.

LIFE Bronchoscopy

LIFE Bronchoscopy is a camera which can show the insides of the lungs. It uses special light (fluorescent) which can detect early spots in the lungs. These early spots are either pre-cancer or cancer that has started to grow. These spots are not able to be detected with chest x-rays or CAT scans.

UNC and NIEHS

The University of North Carolina and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (Division of the National Institutes of Health) are working together. They will test LIFE bronchoscopy as a screening tool for early lung cancer.

Many risk factors for lung cancer have been identified. This study will attempt to examine the lungs of people who are at increased risk for lung cancer due to smoking, family history of lung cancer, and other causes.

Qualified applicants will have a complete medical history and physical examination. These will be done by a lung specialist at UNC. Applicants will complete a list of questions to estimate possible risk factors for lung cancer.

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